

Multimodal information literacy and technical skills for first-year students - Marlee Givens and Liz Holdsworth, Georgia Tech



Data literacy

Visualizing the bicycle and the New Woman

Students analyze the frequency and context of terms related to the bicycle in a late 19th/early 20th century women's magazine. They then use these techniques of "distant reading" to study and create data visualizations about *The Lady's Realm*.

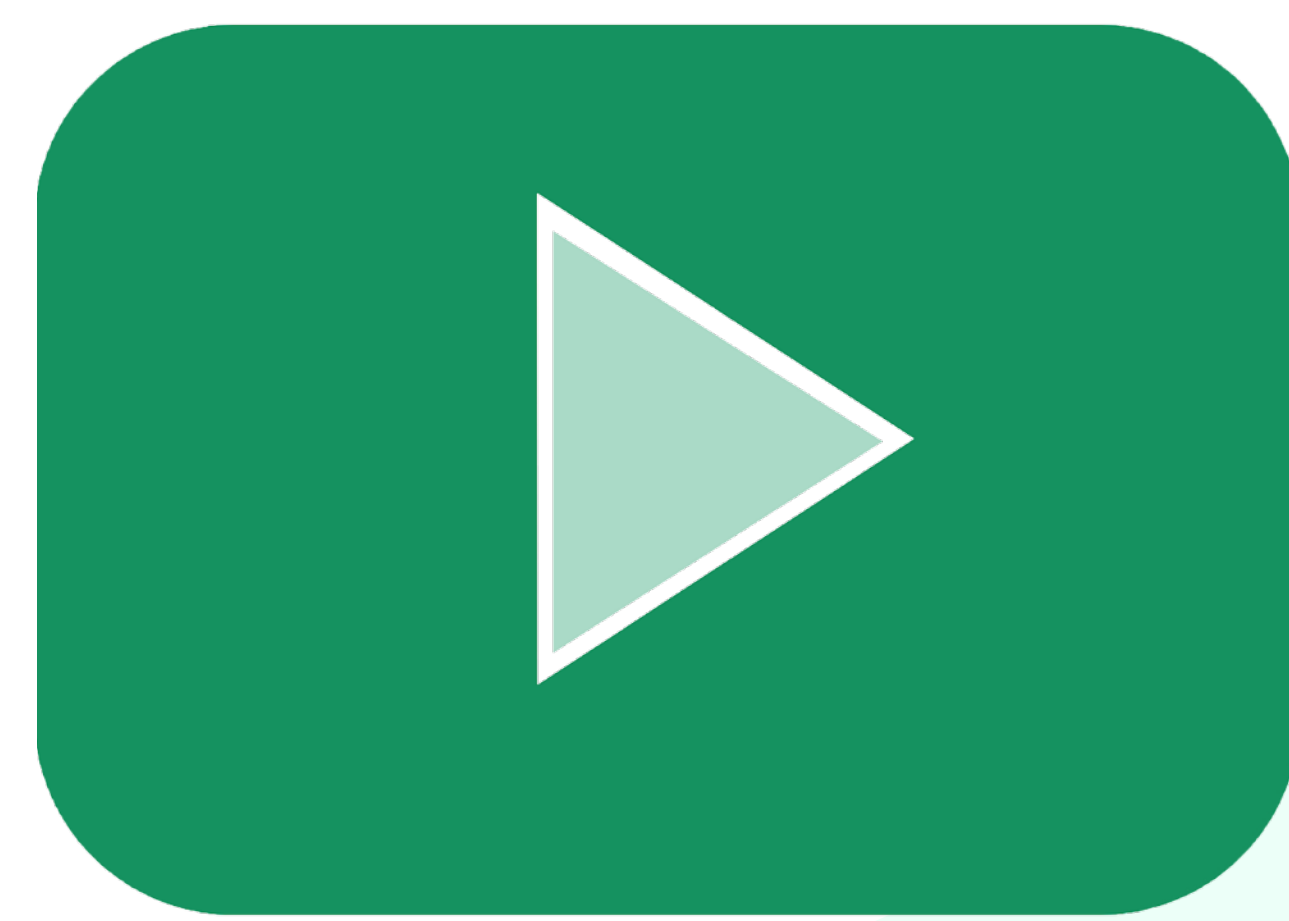
Technologies used

- HathiTrust
- OpenRefine
- Voyant
- Tableau

Skills learned

- Finding and downloading data
- Recursive examination of data
- Critical discernment of data
- Basics of data visualization

I was invited by the faculty member to teach five classes over the duration of the semester as part of course-integrated instruction. I helped the students download the corpus from the HathiTrust on three occasions, taught them to clean the data, analyze the data, and then assisted them in developing visualizations.



Audio/visual literacy

Urban development promotion

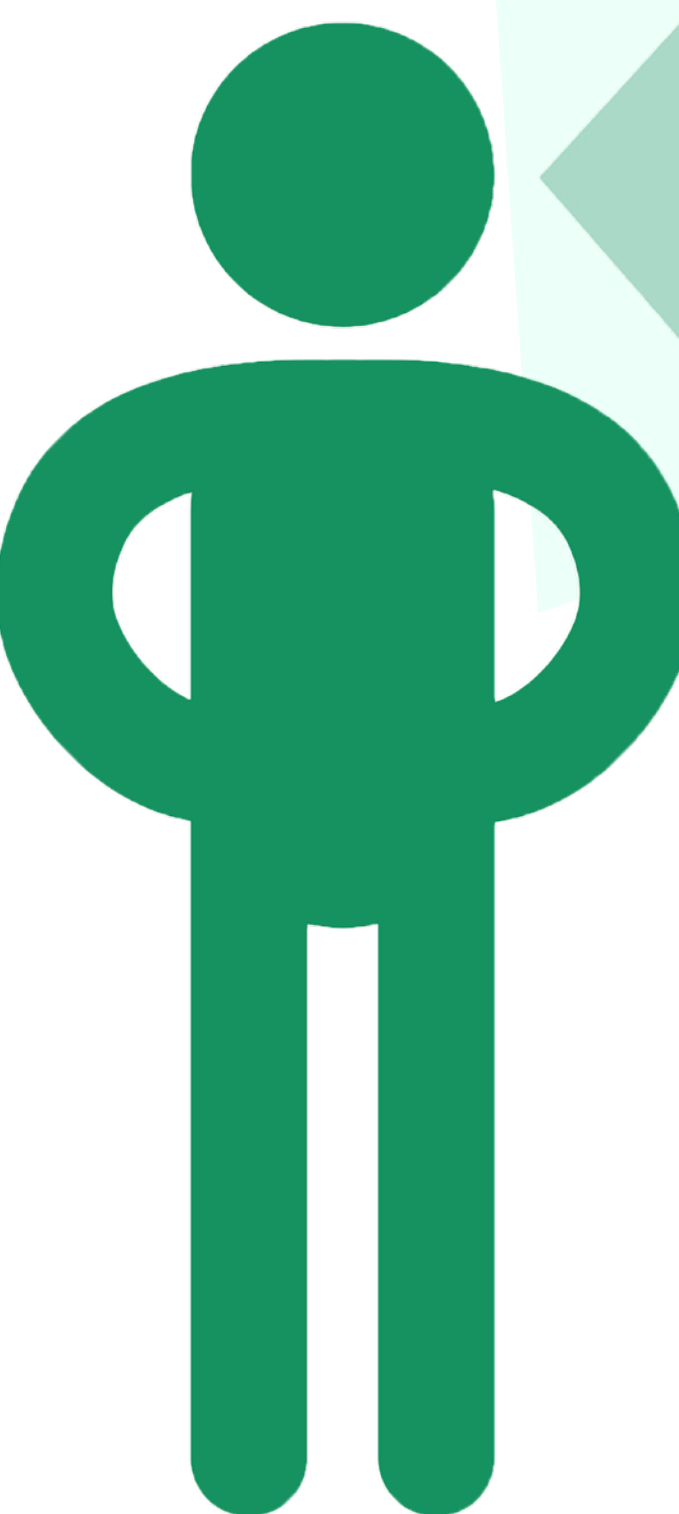
Students create a persuasive video for an urban development topic for the metropolitan Atlanta region. The prospective audience would be the general public.

Technologies used

- DSLR cameras, mobile phones, tripods
- iMovie, Audacity, Adobe Premiere
- Creative Commons media
- Library databases

Skills learned

- Planning video and sound production
- Finding additional assets
- Genre conventions of promotional videos
- Seamless sound and video editing



Based on previous assignments, the class professor identified gaps in the students' knowledge and where he wanted to see improvement. I taught them how to write appropriately for their audience's reading and attention level, how to create a consistent and pleasing aesthetic, and how to use music to emphasize certain points of the narrative.



Audio literacy

Three podcasts and a radio show

Students develop three (3) audio pieces during the semester for the Georgia Tech FYE course, GT1000. These are audio recordings of a personal reflection, an interview with a faculty member, and a promotional message for a hypothetical radio show.

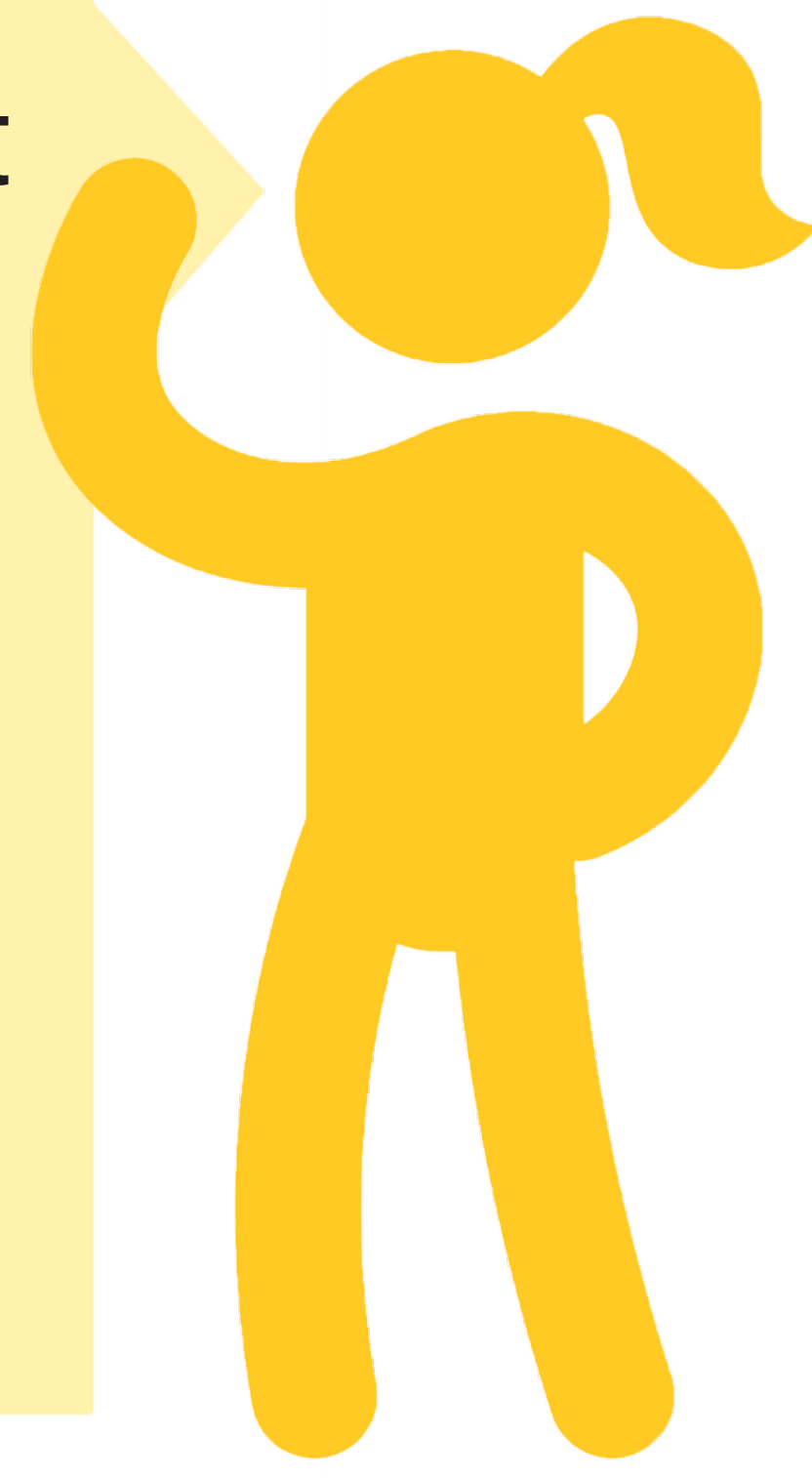
Technologies used

- Microphones and smartphones
- Audacity
- Creative Commons media
- Library databases

Skills learned

- Fundamentals of audiological frameworks
- Audio editorial choices
- Vocal delivery and silence

We developed this as a stand-alone, for-credit class for the first-year experience seminar. Many librarians at Georgia Tech teach GT 1000. Within a model syllabus, we created the assignments and many of the class requirements. Sonic literacy skills, therefore, were an inextricable part of the course.



Information literacy

18th century ecological population statistics

Students were asked to find data on animal and plant populations in metropolitan Atlanta from the 17th to 20th centuries. Each student randomly selected an organism and an era. They were then asked to write a short paper on their observations.

Technologies used

- Library databases
- University of Georgia Archives
- Wikipedia

Skills learned

- Understanding availability limitations
- Historical context of research
- Modern views of ecological data



After several individual consultations, I decided the research question itself was untenable. Some population statistics from the 18th century may be available for certain agricultural commodities but are exceedingly difficult to find, if non-existent, for other organisms. I advised the students to reframe the assignment in terms of lack of information.